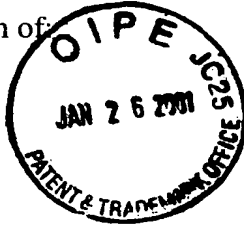


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Allen Dean Mammel
Serial No.: 09/398,987
Filing Date: September 17, 1999
Group Art Unit: 3643
Examiner: Rowan, K.
Title: NO-TIE FISHING SYSTEM AND METHOD



14/Reel
2/2/01
Holmes

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

FEB 02 2001

Dear Sir:

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

I, Allen Dean Mammel, the sole inventor of the above-identified patent application, hereby make the following declaration:

1. I am the sole inventor of the subject matter of the above-referenced Application entitled "NO-TIE FISHING SYSTEM AND METHOD," filed on September 17, 1999, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Patent No. 5,970,650, granted on October 26, 1999, which was filed August 4, 1998.

2. The Examiner rejected the claims of the current application in an Official Action mailed October 3, 2000, based, in whole or in part, on the following references:

"The Uni-Knot", obtained from the FisherNet, by Steve Woolbert, 1996;

"Presenting the Fly" by George Harvey "Dry-Fly Knot";

U.S. Patent No. 2,672,704 issued to Clarence J. Smith; and

U.S. Patent No. 4,336,087 issued to Leon L. Martuch, et al.

The information contained in this Declaration should more clearly demonstrate the patentability of the invention as claimed in the instant application in general, and the distinctions between the claimed invention and the cited prior art.

3. The invention in the above-identified patent may be generally described as a fishing apparatus and a method that incorporates, together with an "eye" (such as is in a normal fishhook) which is not fully closed but which includes an integrally formed blocker on said "eye" that inhibits the tippet of line from becoming free from the "eye" after the tippet or line is tied or otherwise affixed onto the "eye". The "gateway" hook and "no-thread fishing equipment" as is described and claimed in U.S. Patent No. 5,970,650 provides one example of the type of "eye" that functions and operates satisfactorily with this invention.

The present invention utilizes the advantages of the "gateway" hook and the "no-thread fishing equipment" patent and provides new fishing apparatus and methods for easier use, quicker changeability, and more flexibility in use. Further, when incorporated as part of a "tippet" with a fixed-loop on the opposite end of a special "tippet" (which fixed loop can be joined by a "hand-shake" connection with a leader "butt" that also has a fixed-loop) said new tippet adds a new dimension to fishing equipment usage which becomes a true "no-thread fishing equipment" and a "no-knots-to-tie" fishing system.

This new "tippet" with the new "sliding-loop knot" further adds the abilities of the user to easily release the fly (hook, lure, etc.), quickly change the fly, store the tippet for re-use, quickly change the size of the tippet, re-use any of the tippets, know by the tippet's color-coding on the fixed loop what size tippet he is using or wants to use and do it all without threading-a-fly or tying any knots.

The new "sliding-loop" knot of this invention has special requirements to be effective and is designed and constructed to encompass these requirements. These requirements include the following:

- A. A pre-formed knot with a sliding-loop that will easily loop into the "eye" of the "gate-way" hook or any not-fully closed "eye" on a hook or other product.
- B. A sliding-loop with a knot that tightens easily and is then secure and snug.

- C. A sliding-loop with a knot that after being tightened will release easily.
- D. A sliding loop with a knot that is of a size that can be "grasped" or "gripped" easily to release it.
- E. A knot on the sliding-loop that will have little or no friction on the standing-line of the tippet or line. Undesired friction often causes the tippet or line to wear and break the tippet or line.
- F. A knot on the sliding-loop with no or minimal "pressure" or "cutting" contact on the tippet or line that can cause the tippet or line to weaken and break.
- G. A "sliding-loop" knot that is constructed and designed to be re-usable and not a knot with a loop in its construction that is anticipated to be a single or one time only use knot.
- H. A "sliding-loop" knot that is constructed and designed to be opened and closed many times.
- I. A "sliding-loop" knot or a tippet that is constructed and designed to be storable for re-use.
- J. A knot on a sliding-loop that gives near 100% line or tippet strength.
- K. A knot on a sliding-loop that is designed and constructed so as to be larger in size so as can be "gripped" or "grasped" easily.
- L. A knot on a sliding-loop that is designed and constructed so as can be made larger for "gripping" or "grasping" on smaller or "fine" tippets (i.e. 6X, etc.)
- M. A sliding-loop that incorporates a "sliding-loop-knot-keeper" to prevent and preclude the sliding loop knot from sliding off the line when stored, not during use, free of the "gateway" hook eye for any reason or stored for re-use.
- N. A sliding-loop tippet system that allows for easy changes of tippets.
- O. A sliding-loop knot that is designed and constructed to be usable on flies, lures as well other uses in the fishing context, as well as other uses not in the fishing context.
- P. The storage cards, which house the sliding-loop tippet system with the "gateway" hook make it clear that the sliding-loop/sliding-loop tippet is a unique invention. The storage cards with the sliding-loop tippets are enclosed as Exhibits A, B, C, and D for inspection by the Examiner.

4. I authorized my patent attorney, Mr. Thomas R. Felger, to prepare the original application Serial No. 09/129,106 filed August 4, 1998. The present application was filed as a Continuation-In-Part application on September 17, 1999.

5. I have reviewed the response to the Office Action mailed October 3, 2000 including the Amended Claims.

6. Exhibit A is a 4X sized tippet tied with the "sliding-loop" knot (marked with green tag) and with "Uni-Knot" (marked with red tag).

7. Exhibit B is a 5X sized tippet tied with the "sliding-loop" knot "sliding-loop" knot (marked with green tag) and with "Uni-Knot" (marked with red tag).

8. Exhibit C is a 6X sized tippet tied with the "sliding-loop" knot "sliding-loop" knot (marked with green tag) and with "Uni-Knot" (marked with red tag).

9. Exhibit D is the "Loop 'N Lock Fly Fishing System", 4 page instruction brochure, printed January, 1999, by Dean Mammel.

10. An inspection of the enclosed Exhibits will further demonstrate differences between my claimed invention and references cited by the Examiner.

11. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Executed this 19th day of January, 2001.


Allen Dean Mammel

Enclosures: Exhibits A, B, C, and D